

What is claimed is:

1. Electronic equipment having a plurality of electronic units working in cooperation comprising:

5       a first electronic unit having a first version data of said first electronic unit itself, and first support version data of an opposite second electronic unit being supported by said first electronic unit; and

10       the second electronic unit having a second version data of said second electronic unit itself, and a second support version data of the opposite first electronic unit being supported by said second electronic unit,

15       wherein at least either one of said first electronic unit and said second electronic unit compares the magnitude of said first version data and said second support version data, compares the magnitude of said second version data and said first support version data and verifies the compatibility between said plurality of electronic units from a great and small relationship according to both  
20       compared results.

2. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said each plurality of electronic units comprises:

25       a memory for storing control program; and  
      a processor for executing said control program,  
      and wherein said version data comprises the version data of said control program.

3. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said either one electronic unit verifies the compatibility after either electronic unit of said first 5 electronic unit or said second electronic unit is substituted.

4. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said first and second support version data 10 comprises a newest support version data.

5. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of electronic units are constituted by printer controller units. 15

6. The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein said either one electronic unit changes said version of the control program when verified as incompatibility to automatically shift a proper version 20 having the compatibility.

7. The electronic equipment according to claim 6 wherein said either one electronic unit controls a valid or invalid of a difference information in the control 25 program comprised an old control program and said difference information between the old control program to change said version of said control program.

8. The electronic equipment according to claim 6 wherein each of said plurality of electronic units comprises:

- 5 a memory for storing control program; and  
a processor for executing said control program,  
wherein said either one electronic unit verifies the compatibility using said version data of said control programs after said control program version is changed to  
10 maintain the compatibility between said control programs.

9. The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein said either one electronic unit verifies the compatibility when installing said control program of  
15 either one electronic unit.

10. An electronic unit working in cooperation with the opposite electronic unit, said electronic unit having compatibility verification data for verifying the  
20 compatibility with said opposite electronic unit, said compatibility verification data comprising:

- a support version data of said opposite electronic unit being supported by said electronic unit itself, to be compared with a version data of said opposite electronic  
25 unit; and

a version data of said electronic unit itself being supported by said opposite electronic unit.

11. A method for verifying the compatibility in electronic equipment having a plurality of electronic units working in cooperation, said method comprising the steps

5 of:

comparing a first version data of one electronic unit among said plurality of electronic units with a second support version data of said electronic unit being supported by another electronic unit;

10 comparing a second version data of the other electronic unit with a first support version data of the other electronic unit being supported by said electronic unit; and

15 verifying the compatibility among said plurality of electronic units using said compared results.

12. The method for verifying the compatibility according to claim 11 wherein said first and support version data comprises the version data of a control program of said one electronic unit, and

said second and support version data comprises version data of a control program of said other electronic unit.

13. The method for verifying the compatibility according to claim 11 wherein said compatibility verification is performed after either one electronic unit of said first electronic unit or said second electronic

unit is substituted.

14. The method for verifying the compatibility  
according to claim 11 wherein said first and second support  
5 version data comprises a newest support version data.

15. The method for verifying the compatibility  
according to claim 11 wherein said plurality of electronic  
units are constituted by printer controller units.

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16. The method for verifying the compatibility  
according to claim 12, further comprising a step of changing  
said version of the control program when verified as  
incompatibility to automatically shift a proper version  
15 having the compatibility.

17. The method for verifying the compatibility  
according to claim 12 wherein said compatibility  
verification is performed on installing a control program  
20 of either one of the plurality of electronic units.

18. The method for verifying the compatibility in  
electronic equipment according to claim 16 further  
comprising the step of:  
25 re-verifying the compatibility using said version data  
of said control programs after changing a version of said  
control program to be executed by a processor in said

electronic unit.

19. The method for verifying the compatibility  
according to claim 17 wherein said changing step comprises  
5 a step of changing a version of said control program being  
constituted by an older version of said control program  
and differential information between said versions, by  
controlling to make said differential information either  
valid or invalid.

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